

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /107 W

-----016919 301252Z /40

R 291413Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5041

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4619

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS SO US

SUBJECT: U.S. AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ARMS TO SOMALIA IN PRINCIPLE

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 4603 (NOTAL) B) NAIROBI 8767 (NOTAL)

1. AT NOONTIME RECEPTION JULY 29, CAMEROON AND SIERRA LEONE AMABSSADORS EXPRESSED TO ME THEIR "DISAPPOINTMENT" WITH OUR ANNOUNCEMENT TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA IN PRINCIPLE. THEIR  
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EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET FOLLOWED SIMILAR BUT LESS EXPLICIT COMMENTS FROM SENEGALESE, ZAMBIAN, AND TO LESSER EXTENT, LIBERIAN, AMBASSADORS DAY BEFORE.

2. BOTH CAMEROONIAN AND SIERRA LEONAN IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WERE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED ABOUT TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT JUST BEFORE OAU COMMISSION ON SOMALIA/

ETHIOPIA MEETING IN LIBREVILLE AUG 5, AND BOTH FELT IT WOULD COMPLICATE COMMISSION'S TASK. COMMISSION, ACCORDING CAMEROONIAN, WILL TRY TO FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND HE DID NOT SEE HOW US ANNOUNCEMENT TO PROVIDE ARMS ASSISTANCE TO ONE OF PROTAGONISTS WOULD BE HELPFUL ("IN PRINCIPLE" TENDS TO GET LOST IN DISCUSSIONS OF SUBJECT). BOTH SIERRA LEONANA AND CAMEROONIAN THOUGHT THAT COMMISSION WOULD MAKE SOME KIND OF RESOLUTION OR STATEMENT CRITICAL OF US DECISION AND CAMEROONIAN THOUGHT THAT IN ADDITION THERE MIGHT BE STATEMENT REQUESTING ALL COUNTRIES TO SUSPEND ARMS DELIVERIES TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

3. I WENT TO SOME PAINS WITH ALL FIVE OF THEM TO ENSURE THEY UNDERSTOOD SUBSTANCE OF GUIDANCE CONTAINED STATE 175545 (NOTAL), PARTICULARLY POLICY OF AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND SUPPORT FOR OAU PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. THEY ALL WERE NONETHELESS CLEARLY DUBIOUS ABOUT USE OF ARMS FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES ONLY, AS INDEED ARE OTHER COM'S HERE WHO HAVE RAISED SUBJECT WITH ME, AND CAMEROONIAN, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT FOR OAU EFFORTS, REITERATED HIS FEELING THAT OUR DECISION DIDN'T SEEM TO HIM TO FIT WITHIN THAT CONTEXT.

4. BRITISH CHARGE WAS TOLD MUCH SAME THING BY SIERRA LEONAN. MEANWHILE, SOMALI AMBASSADOR AND DCM ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION TO US FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DECISION. OTHER ARAB LEAGUE DIPS HAVE BEEN MORE RESTRAINED.

5. COMMENT: IT LIKELY THAT AFRICAN AMBASSADORS HERE ARE REFLECTING THEIR OWN PERSONAL VIEWS WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. IT ALSO PROBABLE THAT TO SOME DEGREE THEIR VIEWS ARE COLORED BY FACT THAT MANY OF THEM WILL BE IN LIBREVILLE WHERE THEY WILL BE PERSONALLY WRESTLING WITH SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM AND WILL BE EXPECTED TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING POSITIVE. ANYTHING THAT COMPLICATES THEIR PROBLEM MORE AS THEY SEE IT IS NOT LIKELY TO GAIN MUCH FAVOR WITH THEM. STILL AND ALL, FACT THAT ALL FIVE ARE MODERATES, MOST OF WHOM WILL BE GOING TO LIBREVILLE, AND THAT THEY WERE SUFFICIENTLY DISTURBED TO TELL US OF THEIR CONCERNS, SUGGESTS THAT OUR DECISION MAY BE IN FOR SOME ADVERSE COMMENTARY THERE. SIERRA LEONAN WHO IS ESPECIALLY GOOD FRIEND ASKED WHETHER THERE WASN'T SOMETHING WE COULD DO NOW TO HELP SITUATION, BUT WHEN ASKED WHAT SHE HAD IN MIND, DIDN'T KNOW.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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